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1761

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji ISSHIKI et al. Group Art Unit : 1761
 Appl. No. : 10/500,870 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP03/01222) Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
 I.A. Filed : February 6, 2003 Confirmation No. : 8728

For : METHOD OF EVALUATING QUALITY OF FOODS AND DRINKS
 AND INDICATOR THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 220 20th Street S.
 Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
 Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP03/01222, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International Search Report (in English and Japanese) were enclosed with the papers when entering the National Stage on July 21, 2004. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-15251, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-504858, together with an English language Abstract of the same and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,306,466;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-296086, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited in the specification of the present application, including page 2;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-194053, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited in the specification of the present application, including page 2;

Japanese Patent No. 2930515, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited in the specification of the present application, including page 11;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-335005, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited in the specification of the present application, including page 11; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-2601, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is cited in the specification of the present application, including page 11.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed

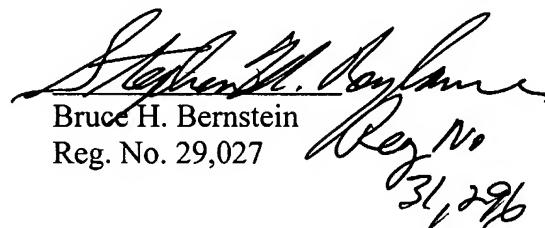
herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are enclosed together with a duly completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each of these documents, and to make them of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate spaces on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(i), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months entering the U.S. National Stage. Accordingly, no fees are required to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenji ISSHIKI et al.


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